

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing telephone service to a passenger on-board an aircraft, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a) establishing an identity for the passenger, including the step of:

receiving, by an on-board telephone service provider, communication by an off-board communications means;

b) obtaining information about the passenger's flight, including the step of:

10 receiving, by the on-board telephone service provider, at least a portion of the flight information from a flight information provider other than the passenger or a caller; and

15 c) selecting an on-board telephone for an incoming call to the passenger, the selecting being responsive to i) the flight information provided by the flight information provider and ii) the passenger identity.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the flight information received from the flight information provider includes location of the aircraft.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving at least a portion of the flight
20 information from a flight information provider includes the flight information provider communicating an identifier for the flight to a receiver for on-board telephone service.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the flight information received from the flight information provider includes a seat assignment for the passenger.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the flight information received from the flight information provider includes information about layout of seats and telephones on the aircraft for the flight, and step c) comprises the step of:

determining an association between a telephone and an assigned seat responsive to the aircraft information.

10 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the passenger has an off-board telephone line, and step a) comprises the step of:

receiving an indication by the on-board telephone service provider that the passenger's off-board telephone line is forwarding to the on-board telephone service provider.

15 7. The method of claim 1, wherein step a) comprises the step of:
receiving passenger identification from the caller.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein step b) comprises the step of:
receiving flight identification from the caller.

20 9. The method of claim 1, wherein step b) comprises the step of:
receiving passenger seat assignment from the caller.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the flight is an airline flight, and the flight information provider includes the airline.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the flight is an airline flight, and the flight
5 information provider includes a third party information provider.

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12. A method for providing telephone service on-board an aircraft, the method comprising the steps of:

a) establishing a passenger identity, including the step of:

receiving, by an on-board telephone service provider, communication by an

off-board communications means;

b) obtaining information about the passenger's flight, including a seat assignment for the passenger, wherein step b) comprises the step of:

receiving, by the on-board telephone service provider, information about the flight from a flight information provider other than the passenger or a caller, the flight information including a flight identification or location of the aircraft; and

c) directing an incoming call for the passenger to a selected telephone on-board the aircraft, including the steps of:

selecting a passage responsive to the passenger identity for the incoming call;

selecting a receiver for a group of telephones on-board the aircraft responsive to the flight identification or the aircraft location; and

selecting the on-board telephone responsive to the seat assignment and the information about the craft.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the passenger has an off-board telephone line, and

step a) comprises the step of:

receiving an indication by the on-board telephone service provider that the passenger's off-board telephone line is forwarding to the telephone service provider.

5 received from the caller.

information provider includes the airline.

information provider includes a third party information provider

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18. An apparatus for providing telephone service on-board an aircraft, the apparatus comprising:

a number of telephones on-board a number of aircraft, including telephones associated with respective rows of seats on each respective aircraft;

5 a network for receiving a call for a passenger and transmitting the call to a selected one of the telephones on a selected one of the aircraft;

a processor; and

memory, wherein the memory has a computer program operable with the processor for performing the steps of:

10 a) establishing a passenger identity;

b) receiving, by the on-board telephone service provider, information about the flight from a flight information provider other than the passenger or a caller, the flight information including a flight identification or location of the aircraft; and

c) directing an incoming call for the passenger to a selected on-board telephone,

15 including the steps of:

selecting the aircraft responsive to the flight identification or aircraft location for the incoming call; and

selecting the on-board telephone responsive to the seat assignment.

20 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the passenger has an off-board telephone line, and step a) comprises the step of:

receiving an indication by the on-board telephone service provider that the passenger's off-board telephone line is forwarding to the telephone service provider.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein step a) comprises the step of:
receiving passenger identification from the caller.

21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein at least a portion of the flight information is
5 received from the caller.

22. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the flight is an airline flight, and the flight
information provider includes the airline.

10 23. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the flight is an airline flight, and the flight
information provider includes a third party information provider.

24. A computer program product for providing telephone service to a passenger on-board an aircraft, the method comprising the steps of:

first instructions for establishing an identity for the passenger, including instructions for receiving, by an on-board telephone service provider, communication by an off-board

5 communications means;

second instructions for obtaining information about the passenger's flight, including instructions for receiving, by the on-board telephone service provider, at least a portion of the flight information from a flight information provider other than the passenger or a caller; and

10 third instructions for selecting an on-board telephone for an incoming call to the passenger, the selecting being responsive to i) the flight information provided by the flight information provider and ii) the passenger identity.

15 25. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the flight information received from the flight information provider includes location of the aircraft.

26. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least a portion of the flight information received from a flight information provider includes an identifier for the flight.

20 27. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the flight information received from the flight information provider includes a seat assignment for the passenger.